

TOWN OF EPSOM
BUDGET COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 8, 2022

Attendees: Marylou Keane, Chairman; Joni Kitson, Vice Chairman; Gary Kitson, Water District Representative; Meadow Wysocki, Selectmen's Representative; Mary Frambach; Joyce Heck; Len Gilman; Linda Hodgdon; Michael Muise, School Board Representative; Floyd Graham

Not in Attendance: Penny Graham

Other Attendees: Jerrica Vanslyvong; Pat Curley; Celeste Decker; Katlin Camidge; Cheryl Gilpatrick; Virginia Drew; Hannah John, Andy Axman; Kathy Desroches;

Marylou opened the meeting at 7:02 PM.

LIBRARY

Pat Curley and Mrs. Camidge presented the Library budget. Mrs. Curley discussed the programs presented and the number of attendees. She noted that they would also like to present more outreach programs. Ms. John, the Children's Librarian, has visited Epsom Central School and Pembroke Academy. She will be visiting the day care centers and the nursing home.

The budget increase is 3.6%. Mrs. Curley noted the library budget also includes heat, water and electricity for the Old Library Building. She noted they have applied for grants that they have received. She noted how important the library is to the Town.

Mrs. Camidge discussed the budget. The book line includes adult and children's books. They also purchase audio material and DVD's. She noted that when people come in looking for references, they use the computers as information is continually updated.

Mrs. Camidge noted the program line is the same, but they receive grants for some programs.

Legal fees have been included this year as the Trustees have to review the policies, etc.

It was noted that the wages have increased as there are now two full time employees that were only part-time during the pandemic.

Mrs. Camidge noted the number of patrons that use the library with there being 1455 cards. Many families share the card between their family members.

Mrs. Camidge noted that some of the wages will be adjusted in January. Some of the employees will be doing different jobs.

Mike asked if the library collected any revenue. Mrs. Camidge noted they do charge for printing, but it is not a lot of money.

The periodicals were over spent this year due to ordering items patrons requested. Joni asked if the Old Library was being cleaned. Mrs. Camidge noted it is not being cleaned, but would be once before the end of the year. The surplus amount will be used for additional heat and electric costs.

The telephone costs were discussed. Floyd noted there are ways to reduce the security monitoring fees associated with holding a landline. Gary noted they have only used \$142.00 in postage with \$500.00 budgeted. Mrs. Camidge noted they would like to do a town wide mailing. Mrs. Curley noted they have a monthly newsletter that is sent out via e-mail.

Mrs. Camidge noted the Friends of the Library does several fund raisers. Gary asked if that money is included in the budget, it is not. The Friends is a non-profit organization. Linda Hodgdon gave the current balance and a list of items that they have purchased or plan to purchase.

Linda noted the Friends of the Library are willing to send out information to the committee any time members want it. Gary suggested they give information for the June meeting. Mrs. Camidge indicated that she would provide the Library expenditures at that time.

PLANNING BOARD

Kathy Desroches discussed the Planning Board budget. She noted the old and current fees were included in the information she gave the committee.

Kathy noted that the legal fees would be spent in the next few weeks.

She noted there are no funds for the Master Plan fees, but she hopes to have it completed this year. The costs were discussed with the length of time it has taken to be completed.

Joni asked what the Town received for the membership fees to Regional Planning. Kathy discussed items they do for the Town.

Gary noted the Recording Secretary costs were lower. Gary asked about the Arch, Engineer & Environmental line. Kathy noted it was if the Board needed assistance in those areas. Gary asked about the increase in the printing line by \$400.00. Kathy thought there would be more applications in 2023.

Joni asked if the printing costs were offset by the fees. Kathy indicated not all the costs. As of October 21, 22, there was \$7,849.00 in revenues which was about half their appropriation.

Marylou noted she had the Fire and Police Wages for some neighboring towns. Jerrica will obtain additional information requested by the Committee.

Meadow discussed the positions in the various towns and what is being paid to the positions. She noted employees are leaving and going to towns that pay more. The issues were discussed. Marylou asked how they would like the spreadsheet adjusted. It was discussed with Pembroke and Allenstown to be added with removing Chichester. Len thought that the committee was wasting time as if someone wanted to leave, they would. Joni noted that we could not keep raising salaries to keep people. Gary noted that other towns are trying to steal our employees questioning why employees are leaving our town. Mike asked what the opportunities were for employees. Floyd noted that Epsom was not as busy as Concord, and some employees want to use their training more. Floyd indicated the Selectmen should not come back next year asking for pay increases again. Mike noted that there is importance having longevity and choices that changing jobs might not give them.

Cheryl noted when the Selectmen met with the Fire and Police Chiefs. It was noted that they were having issues replacing employees. Joni noted that people cannot qualify for the positions. It was discussed that people apply to many towns at the same time. Gary discussed that the town needs a pay structure implemented. He noted this is discussed every year. Mike asked what is the budget in the future due to all the step increases. Cheryl explained to the Committee that there are fewer qualified people to choose from in the first responder category.

Minutes

The minutes of November 15, 2022 were reviewed and amended.

Floyd motioned to approve the minutes of November 15, 2022, as amended; Linda seconded the motion. The motion passed with 9 yes and one abstention.

The minutes of December 1, 2022 were reviewed and amended.

Meadow motioned to approve the minutes of December 1, 2022, as amended; Joni seconded the motion. The motion passed with 9 yes and one abstention.

The minutes of December 6, 2022 were reviewed and amended.

Mike motioned to approve the minutes of December 6, 2022 as amended; Linda seconded the motion. The motion passed with 9 yes and one abstention.

Marylou reviewed an e-mail she sent to School officials regarding changing the school presentation until December 20 rather than December 15 so the committee could have time to review the school information. Marylou discussed possible dates for the presentation. Mike discussed information he asked Mr. Warburton to have available for the committee. When to have the school presentation was discussed. It was noted that the SAU budget should have been prepared in October. Mike noted that the school budget was voted on months ago. The issues were discussed. It was decided that if the Budget Committee could get a draft copy by the 9th of December, they would keep the 15th of December scheduled date and if not; they would move the meeting to January to give the Budget Committee time to review the reports.

Marylou had five copies of the BCEP budget that she gave to members.

Meadow motioned to adjourn; Linda seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Marylou adjourned the meeting at 9:55 P.M.

Respectfully,

Betsy Bosiak
Recording Secretary